

In the Claims:

1-35 cancelled.

36. (Previously amended) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a RANKL polypeptide that binds RANK, wherein said polypeptide comprises amino acids 1 to 294 of SEQ ID NO:11.

37. Cancelled

38. (Previously amended) An isolated DNA molecule encoding a RANKL polypeptide that binds RANK, wherein said polypeptide comprises amino acids 48 to 290 of SEQ ID NO:11.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously added) The isolated DNA molecule of Claim 36, wherein said DNA molecule comprises nucleotides 3 to 884 of SEQ ID NO:10.

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously added) The isolated DNA molecule of Claim 38, wherein said DNA molecule comprises nucleotides 144 to 872 of SEQ ID NO:10.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim 36.

45. (cancelled)

46. (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim 38.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim 40.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously added) An expression vector comprising a DNA molecule of Claim 42.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim 44.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim 46.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim 48.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously added) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector of Claim 50.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim 52 under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim 54 under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.

63. (Cancelled)

64. (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim 56 under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously amended) A process for preparing a RANKL polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell of Claim 58 under conditions promoting expression of RANKL polypeptide, and recovering the RANKL polypeptide so expressed.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Previously amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid encoding a RANKL polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) the RANKL of SEQ ID NO:11; and
- b) a fusion protein comprising the RANKL of SEQ ID NO:11,

wherein said RANKL polypeptide is from a mammal.

69. (Previously added) A cell comprising said recombinant nucleic acid of claim 68.

70. (Previously added) The cell of claim 69, wherein said cell is:

- a) a prokaryotic cell;
- b) a eukaryotic cell;
- c) a bacterial cell;
- d) a yeast cell;
- e) an insect cell;
- f) a mammalian cell;
- g) a mouse cell; or
- h) a human cell.

71. (Previously added) A kit comprising said nucleic acid of claim 68.

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Cancelled)

74. (Cancelled)

75. (Previously added) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said RANKL polypeptide is a RANKL immunogen.

76. (Previously amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 68, which exhibits 100% identity over the protein coding portion of a DNA encoding said RANKL sequence.

77. (Previously added) A vector comprising a nucleic acid according to claim 68 and;

- a) transcriptional regulatory sequences operably linked to said RANKL coding sequence; or
- b) an origin of replication.

78. (Previously amended) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 68, wherein said nucleic acid:

- a) is from a natural source;
- b) comprises a detectable label;
- c) comprises synthetic nucleotide sequence; or
- d) comprises a full length coding sequence.

79. (Cancelled)

80. (Previously added) A cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim 75.

81. (Previously added) A cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim 76.

82. (Previously added) A cell comprising said vector of claim 77.

83. (Previously added) A cell comprising said nucleic acid of claim 78.

84. (Previously added) A kit comprising a nucleic acid of claim 78.

85. (Cancelled)

86. (Previously added) A method of making a protein, comprising culturing said cell of claim 69 in an environment resulting in expressing said protein and recovering said protein.

87. (Previously added) A method of making a protein, comprising culturing said cell of claim 80 in an environment resulting in expressing said protein and recovering said protein.

88. (Previously added) A method of making a protein, comprising culturing said cell of claim 82 in an environment resulting in expressing said protein and recovering said protein.

89. (Previously amended) A method of making a double-stranded nucleic acid comprising contacting said nucleic acid of claim 75 with a complementary nucleic acid under selective hybridization conditions at least as stringent as the conditions of hybridizing at 50°C in 5 x SSC, thereby forming said double-stranded nucleic acid.

90. (Previously added) A method of making a nucleic acid of claim 68, comprising amplifying said nucleic acid using PCR amplification methods.